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'INDO-PAK EXPRESS' TO COME TOGETHER AT ACAPULCO

Despite tension between India and Pakistan, Aisam-ul-Haq Qureshi and Rohan Bopanna join hands for first time since 2014

ONLY ONE EVENT TO START WITH

The pair, nicknamed 'Indo-Pak Express', will be teaming up at the ATP 500 meet in Mexico, slated to be held from March 15-21. "For the time being, we will only be playing in Acapulco," Aisam said. "Let's see how it goes." With invaluable ranking points up for grabs, it's a big meet for Bopanna, who is yet to win a match this year (three losses).

'STOP WAR, START TENNIS'

They were praised after they wore T-shirts that had the above slogan in order to promote peace between the two countries. They won the 'Arthur Ashe Humanitarian of the Year' award. The pair decided to come together as a team after spending time together in Melbourne in February during the Australian Open.

FIVE

THE PAIR HAS PREVIOUSLY WON FIVE TITLES ON THE ATP TOUR

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VILAYATNAGAR • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KODIENKOTTA • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • DELHIVERY • BHUBANESHWAR • SHIVMOGGA • MANGALURU • THIRUPATI • THIRUCHY • THIRUNEELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBLI • CHANDRAPUR • KOTTAIYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • WARANGAL • TADIPATRI • NAGAPATTINAM • THIRISSUR • KALABURGI

Violating protocol, B C Patil and his wife get inoculated at their Hirekerur residence drawing criticism from netizens and Health Minister Dr K Sudhakar; Circular to be issued to doctors not to administer vaccines at home

Minister runs foul of rules with jab at home

CHETANA BELAGERE & ARUNKUMAR HURALIMATH
@Bengaluru, Hubballi

WHEN senior citizens and those with co-morbidities who are eligible, are being asked to register and await their turn for the Covid-19 vaccination, Agriculture Minister B C Patil sparked a major controversy when he and his wife got the vaccine administered at his residence.

Taking serious note of this, the Centre on Tuesday said that it has asked for a report from the Karnataka Government in this regard.

"While 90- and 100-year-old citizens are struggling, waiting in queues to get their vaccine, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself went all the way till the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) to get the jab, here is our Karnataka minister who can order government servants to come to his doorstep for a jab," remarked Rudrappa Desai, a retired banker who waited for more than five hours at a government hospital for the vaccination.

On Tuesday morning, the second day of the third phase of the vaccination drive, government doctors landed at B C Patil's residence at Hirekerur in Haveri district and administered the vaccine to the 64-year-old minister and his wife. He even tweeted pictures announcing that he had taken the vaccine. The photograph and video went viral, sparking anger among citizens.

The minister was trolled



Agriculture Minister B C Patil gets vaccinated at his residence in Hirekerur, Haveri, on Tuesday | EXPRESS

CENTRE SEEKS REPORT

Taking a serious note of the minister taking the Covid shot at home, the Centre has sought a report on the matter from the state. "Getting vaccinated at home is not allowed as per protocol. It has come to our notice and we have asked for a report from the State Government," Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan said in response to a query at a press conference in New Delhi.

heavily and several social media users questioned his decision to take the vaccine at home.

Health and Medical Education Minister Dr K Sudhakar said that as per protocol, people have to get vaccinated at hospitals. "Vaccinating at home is not allowed. I will inquire about this and issue notices to the doctors and minister seeking explanation," he told the media.

Meanwhile, Patil defended himself saying that he had not committed any crime and wanted to avoid trouble for the public. "Have I committed theft or robbery? I have only taken the vaccine at home, which is not a crime," he told reporters.

The minister also said that he did not know the guidelines for vaccination and, as there were many programmes he was

preoccupied with, he had called the doctors home. He also added that if he had gone to the hospital, then it would have caused trouble for the people waiting there.

However, Dr Sudhakar expressed dissatisfaction over Patil's conduct and said the medical team should have persuaded him to visit the hospital. "Unless there is prior permission, no one is allowed to vaccinate at home. It is wrong to do so," he said.

The Health Minister also said that he will issue a circular to doctors not to administer vaccines at home.

Close aides of Patil reasoned that he had pain in the leg and other engagements to attend to in his constituency. Hence, he decided to take the vaccine at his residence.

MORE REPORTS: P3

More seniors receive Covid shots on Day 2



Senior citizens waiting to be vaccinated at a private hospital in Bengaluru on Tuesday.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

FOLLOWING rectification of some of the teething problems in Phase-3 of the Covid vaccination programme on Monday, Day 2 of the process on Tuesday saw improved attendance by senior citizens and those aged above 45 with co-morbidities. However, it was not without problems for senior citizens, mainly from the CoWIN app meant for registering and facilitating smooth vaccination process.

As per the Health Department data, 10,046 people were inoculated across the state on Tuesday. This includes 1,147 people with co-morbidities in the age group of 45-60 and 5,186 citizens aged above 60. The total number of people in Karnataka vaccinated now stands at 8.35 lakh since January 16, when the first phase of the vaccination programme opened for health care workers followed by frontline Covid warriors.

On Monday, only 374 people aged between 45 and 60, and 1,576 senior citizens were vaccinated. Among those who were vaccinated in Kar-

nataka on Tuesday were Governor Vajubhai Vala, who took the jab at K C General Hospital in Malleswaram, Bengaluru; Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (RDPR) Minister K S Eshwarappa and his wife Jayalakshmi at the District Ayurvedic Hospital centre in Shivamogga; Agriculture Minister BC Patil (at his home in Hirekerur); and Wipro founder chairman Azim Premji, at Narayana Health City, Bengaluru.

However, although the day saw a much higher number of senior citizens and those with co-morbidities aged between 45 and 60, it was not without persisting technical glitches like on Monday. The CoWIN portal/app that is meant to ensure easy and quick registration and smooth flow of the vaccination process, continued to be dogged by glitches, making it difficult for senior citizens.

Meanwhile, Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan and his wife Nutan Goel took the first dose of the indigenously developed vaccine Covaxin at the Delhi Heart and Lung Institute, a private facility.

Shot in the aam janata!



Jio pockets most airwaves; govt to get ₹20K cr this fiscal

India's first spectrum auctions in five years ended on Tuesday with the government selling ₹77,815 crore worth of airwaves and Reliance Jio walking away with the lion's share of winning bids worth ₹57,122 crore. The expensive 700 MHz and 2,500 MHz band did not attract any buyers.

20PER CENT OF SPECTRUM PUT UP FOR AUCTION SOLD	COMPANY-WISE BREAKUP	
Assets on offer Quantum: 2,308.8 MHz Reserve Price ₹3.92 lakh crore	RELIANCE JIO Quantum 488.35 MHz Total amount ₹57,122.65 cr	BHARTI AIRTEL Quantum 355.45 MHz Total amount ₹18,698.75 cr
Spectrum sold Quantum: 855.6 MHz Total bids ₹77,815 crore	VODAFONE IDEA Quantum 11.8 MHz Total amount ₹1,993.4 cr	

₹19,000-20,000 cr to be received by the government from spectrum auctions during the current fiscal year, with the rest to be paid later

Debt crisis staring India in the face, warns former PM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @T Puri

FORMER prime minister Manmohan Singh on Tuesday warned of a looming debt crisis, saying temporary steps taken by the Centre and the Reserve Bank of India cannot paper over the credit problems staring the country in the face.

Blaming the BJP government's ill-conceived demonetisation for the country's high unemployment rate, Manmohan Singh warned that the crisis could adversely affect the small and medium sectors of the industry. He was speaking after inaugurating a development summit, organised virtually by the Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Development Studies at Neyyar Dam in Thiruv-

ananthapuram on Tuesday.

"Due to the ill-conceived demonetisation in 2016, unemployment skyrocketed and the unorganised sector landed in a shambles. If India's political and economic philosophy stood for a foundation as envisaged in the country's Constitution, having a federal set-up and communication between the states, the incumbent Union government is against this. The economy can be revived, provided schemes for the poor and the downtrodden are implemented," he opined.

Regarding Kerala, he said even though its social standards are high, due diligence should be given to certain other sectors that require periodic review. He pointed out that the state is facing several hurdles

that have to be overcome at a time when the global economic slowdown over the last two to three years has skyrocketed due to the pandemic.

"The proliferation of digital use would give an impetus to information technology, but it will still hamper the prospects of the tourism sector. The more the pandemic is creating havoc, the challenges faced in the tourism sector are more. The public funding is in a shambles in Kerala and other states, which has led them to seek loans. This will create further issues in future budgets," added Singh.

Expressing happiness at the UDF's "people's manifesto", which has promised the NAYY scheme that aims to provide ₹6,000 per month to the poor households, Singh hoped it would usher in revolutionary changes in the society.

AHEAD OF SESSION

Sleaze CD of Jarkiholi raises political storm

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru/Belagavi

A day before the cabinet meeting and two days before the start of the budget session, a CD gate has come to haunt the State Government. On Monday, a compact disc containing sleazy content allegedly involving Water Resources Minister Ramesh Jarkiholi and a young woman, who was seeking a government job, came out in the open.

In a remarkable similarity to former Congress minister H Y Meti in case, who too was caught with a woman and had to resign in 2016, this CD too has explicit material and is said to have been clandestinely shot inside a hotel room in Cubbon Park police limits. Ramesh Jarkiholi is allegedly seen with a woman in a compromising position in multiple audio and video clips.

An RTI activist, Dinesh Kallahalli, on Tuesday came to Bengaluru Police Commissioner Kamal Pant's office seeking protection for the woman, who is yet to be identified. Asking the police to conduct an inquiry, he told Pant that the minister took undue advantage of the woman, who had gone seeking a government job. She had been exploited by Jarkiholi a number of times, he claimed.

The video has been recorded by the victim. Dinesh Kallahalli said that she approached him for help as she faced a life threat, considering that Jarkiholi is an influential and powerful person. She handed over the CD to Kallahalli and told him that she and her family cannot come out in the open because of the explicit content in the CD.

P6

CAMPAIGN OVER CHAI

Campaigning in poll-bound Assam, Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra went around the Sadharu Tea Estate near Biswanath to take a slice of the tea tribe voters away from the BJP.

The community is composed of several large tribes like Munda, Santhal, Kurukh (Oron), Gonds, and Bhumi who wield considerable political influence.

Addressing a rally in Tezpur, she asserted that if her party is voted to power in the state, it will bring a new law to "nullify" the Citizenship Amendment Act | P10



Priyanka Gandhi Vadra tries her hand at plucking tea leaves at the Sadharu tea garden in Biswanath, Assam, on Tuesday | EXPRESS

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